

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5229

ANSWERED ON:28.08.2001

INCLUSION OF TAMIL NADU BACKWARD DISTRICTS

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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for non-selection of any of the districts of Tamil Nadu as the most backward districts in the country;
- (b) the detailed reports received from the Government of Tamil Nadu with regard to the Status of the 30 districts in the State?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a): A Committee (headed by the then Principal Adviser in the Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, inter-alia, identify the 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyze the causes of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. Keeping the above parameters in view, the Committee identified 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. As per the broad parameters adopted by the Committee, no district in Tamil Nadu qualified for inclusion in the list of 100 Most Backward and Poorest District.

(b): The comments of the Government of Tamil Nadu on the Sarma Committee Report were sought and the Government of Tamil Nadu in its reply indicated that the main reasons for backwardness had not been spelt out specifically in the Report and the criteria chosen by the Committee for determining backwardness could have included the availability of resources and should have been more rational.